

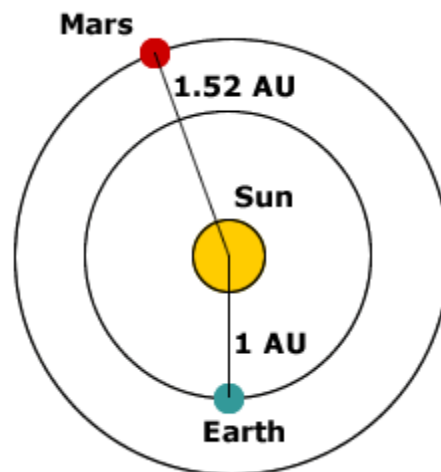
## Astronomical units

The unit of measurement that is convenient for stating the large distances within our Solar System is the astronomical unit (AU). It is defined as the distance from the Earth to the Sun. That distance is approximately 150 million kilometers (150,000,000 km) or 93 million miles (93,000,000 mi).

Some distances within the Solar System in AU are:

- By definition, the Earth is 1 AU from the Sun
- Mars is 1.52 AU from the Sun
- Jupiter is 5.20 AU from the Sun
- Pluto is about 39.5 AU from the Sun

The distance between planets depends on their orientation in their orbits. Mars can be between 2.52 AU and 0.53 AU from Earth, depending on their relative positions.



Distances from Sun of Mars and Earth

As of 2009, the American spacecraft Voyager 1 had traveled over 108 AU from the Sun, the furthest a man-made object has traveled. The distance of 108 AU equates to 16,200,000,000 km or 10,044,000,000 miles.